THE PULSE

News of the
New England Deaconess Hospital Employees

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Here it is again — that time of year when, even with the rush of preparation, people everywhere are a little different — smiles are broader and more frequent, voices are softer, acts are a little kinder, for it is Christmas. This year of all years we realize, not with smug satisfaction but with humble gratitude, that we are a lucky people. World affairs are in a muddle, but we still have food to eat, clothes to wear, undamaged houses to live in, and jobs to do. This should be a joyous season for all of us, and this is our chance to reach all employees with our wish for a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a SUCCESSFUL HAPPY NEW YEAR for each one.

— The Editors

LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE

October 14, 1947.

Dr. Cook announced that the Executive Committee of the hospital voted that as of November 1, 1947, the hospital will pay one-half the cost of Blue Cross and Blue Shield for full-time employees. This coverage may be either semi-private or ward.

Mr. Lowry announced that the Pension System has been and is being discussed by the Executive Committee. Since such a system involves an expenditure of approximately $30,000, the committee is giving it considerable thought.

The possibility of having a forty-four hour week in the Dietary Department was discussed. This problem is a difficult one, and at present it seems impossible to remedy the situation because of the shortage of efficient help. It is hoped that it will be possible eventually to do away with "split time." The installation and use of time clocks will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mrs. Louise Walker, representative from Palmer Kitchen, made the suggestion that it would be helpful if a responsible girl could be put on each floor in Baker to care for trays.

November 10, 1947.

It was announced that the hospital telephone directory will be in booklet form and will be ready in about three weeks.

Further discussion was held regarding the Blue Cross and Blue Shield. It was stated that employees are asked to take out semi-private coverage since the hospital takes a greater loss on ward coverage, and it was also announced that to have ward coverage one must not have a salary exceeding $1,500 a year.

Time clocks have been installed in the Housekeeping Department, and any problems in that connection will be discussed with the head of that department. Miss Gifford, representative of that department, stated that many in her department have expressed the desire for weekly salary checks.

Mr. Robinson, representing the Maintenance Department, stated his department would like a five-day week. Mr. Gould, representative from the Laundry, stated that his department had no problems to present for discussion.

The Community Fund Drive is continuing, and the goal for our hospital is $2,800. An announcement of the result of the drive here will be made on or about November 20th.

Respectfully submitted,
GLADYS R. HARRISON, Secretary

THANKS FOR THANKSGIVING

Thanks are due Dr. Cook and the Administration for the invitation extended to all employees to be guests of the Hospital at Thanksgiving Dinner at the Cafeteria. It was a very enjoyable feast, served in candlelight and festive atmosphere, and much appreciated by everyone.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. BETTS

Dr. Reeve H. Betts, his wife and family (one five-year-old boy and four-year-old twins), expect to sail from England on January 16th for Vellore, India, where Dr. Betts is to enter into a new phase of his medical career. Vellore is about 80 miles inland from Madras, which is just above the island of Ceylon.

Dr. Betts is going out to start a Department of Thoracic Surgery in the Christian Medical College, a co-educational school which has both a medical department and a school of theology. The College is inter-denominational and is supported by Protestant churches all over the world, chiefly outside India itself, which gives only about 2-3% of the total funds for its support.

The Medical School has at present 35 students working on a five-year course, a total of 175 students in all. There is a good-sized hospital there, of 500 beds.

The school was founded in 1918 by a woman, Dr. Mary Scudder, and until a few years ago was a women's medical college. Now it is co-educational — a very unusual departure for a school in India. The original school offered the equivalent of a two-year medical course, and gave only limited training, so to receive a degree it was necessary for a student to go on to a Medical College. In the last few years, however, the school has been raised to University standards and can give full training, grant degrees, and offer opportunities for specializing.

Dr. Betts does not know, of course, how long he will be at Vellore, but he does know that one year's leave plus traveling time is granted to the staff every five years, so we will look forward with interest to hearing from him from time to time and to seeing him in another five years.

The congratulations and best wishes of everyone at the NEDH go with him and his family in this new and thrilling venture.

Katharine Shirley
Deaconess Record Room

ADMINISTRATION

We thought Vera Fogg would have a nervous breakdown before the time finally came for her to go to New York to meet her sister who arrived from England on the Queen Mary December 9, and who will make her home with the Foggs.

Inadvertently we overlooked reporting the fact that Susan Frances arrived at the H. L. Welborn home in Bogalusa, Louisiana in September. Her mother is the former Dottie Bailey of the Cashiers Office. Pictures of Miss Welborn are available and will be enthusiastically

shown by Leona Chille, Kay Waters, or Kay Galvin.

The two Kays' trip to New York mentioned in the last issue was "lots of fun," but unfortunately details had best be obtained from them in person.

Someone finally found a way to slow down Mr. Lowry. We're sorry such drastic measures had to be taken, but are very glad he is recovering from his operation so nicely and that he will be back soon.

DIETARY

All of us were sorry to hear that Clifford Grant, Deaconess Cook, had another operation December 8, and surely hope this one will fix him up.

Best wishes are due Miss Sophie Boryczka, Cafeteria Manager, who was married November 19 to Mr. Frank Bissaillon at Springfield, Massachusetts. After a trip to Montreal, Mrs. Bissaillon returned to the Cafeteria.

Louise Prendergast, Cafeteria Cashier, has recovered nicely from an operation on her finger. Mrs. Edith McAuliffe helped out while she was gone.

HOUSEKEEPING

Mrs. Anne Shea, Supervisor in Deaconess for the past 22 years, has resigned, and the best wishes of all her friends and associates go with her. A gift of money was presented to her from well-wishers throughout the hospital.

The new Supervisor in Deaconess is Mrs. Susan Stevens. We are glad to have her with us, and hope she will like her work here.

Tough Luck — Mary Summers, maid at Kent Street, is in the hospital, and Agnes Hurley, maid in Harris Hall, has broken her hand. We wish both of them a speedy recovery.

LAUNDRY

Our head seamstress, Mrs. Tompkins, is happy to have her daughters home after long visit with relatives in California. Her youngest daughter, Natalie, is a valued assistant in the Deaconess O. R.

The Laundry bowling team hopes to be up among the leaders at the end of the season. Last week our Winnie Murray bowled 115, Mr. Emery 123. Keep up the good work!

Josephine Williams is back after two weeks at her home in Maine. She was there at the time of the fires, but her home, fortunately, was not damaged.

Our Sam and Jeffie have their wives home after a long stay at the hospital. Both are much improved.

NURSING

A trip to New York via the airways must really have something — or is it someone special in the big city? We noticed that Miss Betty Hubbard and Miss Cornelia Harrigan were all smiles when they recently returned from an extended week-end in New York.

Rice and Old Shoe Department: Our best wishes to: Miss Elsie Bigelow (Baker 3) on her recent marriage to Rev. William Keeffe on November 23 in West Abington; Miss Helen Evans on her marriage to Mr. Dorrance Clark on October 31; Miss Norma Garcia to Mr. Kelly in November. Palmer 5 seems to be the matrimonial ward.

'Tis a sad story — Did you see the unhappy look on Mrs. Ogrean's face upon her return from New Haven where Harvard lost to Yale 31-21?

Miss Patricia Dunbar is leaving Deaconess 4 and Miss Purinton will take her place as Assistant Head Nurse. Good luck, Pat, in your future position in Texas!

PATHOLOGY

Departed: Donna Brown has left to join her husband. Dr. Brown, whose appointment with the Lahey Clinic was recently terminated, is taking further training in surgery in New Orleans.

Reunioned: Dr. Wahi, the great traveler, spent Thanksgiving with Dr. William Tribby in Memphis, Tennessee, and reports the latter to have a fine situation well in hand. Dr. Wahi expects to return to Boston in February.

Lost: Dr. Paul Riemenschneider left us to attend the Conference of the Radiological Society of North America and seems a bit late in returning. Anyone going to the Statler Hotel please be on the alert. (Perhaps Dr. Drake will find him as he makes one of his frequent pilgrimages there.)

PHARMACY

The Pharmacy greets Mary Capobianco — its newest addition —

SOCIAL SERVICE

Gladys Harrison combined business with pleasure in a trip to New York recently. She visited Outpatient Cancer and Tumor Clinics in New York and New Haven, returning with useful data for the clinics held in Palmer.

The Deaconess Social Service Office is now equipped with a secretary. When Betty Downey was transferred from Palmer, Miss Elizabeth Kneeland, from out Newton way, joined the Palmer force to carry on Cancer research work.

Mrs. Beryl Paine, our Librarian, put forth her efforts and knowledge of Bibliotherapy as a guest speaker at a Red Cross Gray Lady Service meeting on November 17. This was included in a program of the Boston Metropolitan Chapter of the Gray Lady Service held from November 12-21.

The fragrance of mistletoe and evergreens will mix with the lysol and ether atmosphere on December 18th, when the Outpatient Department takes time out for a Christmas party. As this date is on e "clinic day", no doubt a few patients will help us celebrate.

Contact Z. F. in our department when you or your friends need to borrow a winter coat. She seems to loan them quite freely this season.

STAFF

Dr. Clifford Franseen delivered some interesting and helpful broadcasts this past month to further the fight against cancer.

Dr. Elliott P. Joslin, Dr. Howard Root, Dr. Cabell Bailey, Dr. Allen Joslin, Dr. Tillman McDaniels, Dr. Albert Horner, Dr. James Townsend, and Mrs. Gertrude Jameson were dinner guests of the Rhode Island General Hospital on November 5th, when the New England Diabetes Association held its annual meeting in Providence. Mrs. Rachel S. Leach of the Joslin Staff demonstrated a new rapid method of determining blood sugar. Dr. Elliott P. Joslin is president of this group.

BOWLING

Monday evening, December 8, the Bowling League met at the usual place. The attendance was good. Dr. Cook, of the Executive Team, attained a high of 111.00 and a high average of 100.66. Kay O'Leary, of Purchasing, reached a high of 109.0 and a high average of 99.0.

The following are the results of the last meet:

Purchasing	90.33
Laundry	84.66
Pharmacy	83.19
Executive	78.71
Engineering	78.33
D. O. R.	77.66
P. O. R.	72.58

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